

COUNTRY

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TOPIC

Soviet Troops in Fuerstenwalde

EVALUATION

PLACE OBTAINED

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DATE OF CONTENT

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DATE OBTAINED

DATE PREPARED 13 May 1952

REFERENCES

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PAGES

4

ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

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SOURCE

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1. During the nights from 6 to 8 April 1952, truck convoys with billeting equipment were seen leaving the barracks installation on Braunsdorferstrasse, Fuerstenwalde (N 53/V 33) toward Beeskow (N 53/V 41). The installation quartered only about 800 men on 9 April. A convoy of 12 trucks, [redacted] with 8 trucks towing 76.2-mm field guns left the installation on 4 April. Fifteen officers and 35 men wearing red-bordered black epaulets trained and practiced firing with live ammunition with submachine guns and rifles in the training area behind the installation.

2. [redacted] during the night of 8 April, truck convoys with billeting equipment left the Pioneer Kaserne on Gartenstrasse toward Beeskow. On 9 April, the installation quartered about 700 men. About 25 officers and 100 EM were engaged in firing practice with live ammunition with rifles and about 40 officers were engaged in pistol record firing. Ten officers and 30 men wearing red-bordered black epaulets with tank insignia practiced with dummy tanks at the nearby training grounds. Trucks [redacted] hauled furniture into the installation.

3. At 10 p.m. on 6 April, a truck convoy with troops and billeting equipment left the installation on the road to Rauhen and proceeded toward Beeskow. On 9 April, the installation quartered only about 125 men. There was no vehicular traffic.

4. Prior to 9 April, no vehicles or troops were observed leaving the quarters in the former Aufbauschule. Two officers and 60 men were engaged in physical exercise on 9 April. Seven officers and about 15 soldiers were at maintenance duty on vehicles. Vehicles [redacted] driving from and to the installation.

5. On 1 April, the German auxiliary personnel of the hospital received an order to be ready for a move to the Lieberose (O 52/A 59) troop training grounds after 20 April. (1)

6. On 29 March, the barracks installation on Braunsdorferstrasse was occupied by 1,500 to 2,000 troops who wore red-bordered black epaulets. Troops engaged in callisthenics in the barracks yard and firing practice with live ammunition in the adjoining training grounds. The firing practice involved about 175 men with rifles, submachine guns and some wearing gas

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masks who aimed at two T-34/85 tanks. Twenty-two other soldiers practiced with 4 x 80-mm mortars and 1 x 57-mm AT gun. From 40 to 50 men wearing signal insignia conducted a signal exercise along the Puerstenwalde-Draunsdorf road. They established contact by means of a telephone line and radio with a group of five officers with ranks from major to and including colonel. Five NCOs fired rifles with telescopic sight. About 25 men practiced with 5 x 120-mm mortars. [REDACTED]

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7. On 28 March, the Pionier Kaserne on Cartenstrasse was occupied by 2,300 to 2,600 troops. Sentries wore red-bordered black epaulets with tank insignia. From 80 to 100 troops performed technical work on tanks and trucks. Sixteen 75-mm AT guns were parked in the barracks yard. About 200 troops with red-bordered black epaulets, including some with tank insignia, attacked eight tanks in motion with 20 x 57-mm AT guns in the adjacent training area. A civilian who worked occasionally in the billeting area stated that 60 tanks, including several JS-3s, were in the garages. (2)

8. On 4 April, the Pionier Kaserne on Cartenstrasse was occupied by 500 to 600 troops who wore red-bordered black epaulets, mostly with tank insignia. A few wore motor transport insignia. (3) On 2 April, about 60 soldiers received instruction in firing with submachine guns and machine guns.

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T-34/85 tank [REDACTED] stood between the garages. T-34/85 tanks [REDACTED] fired with machine guns at practice targets on the adjacent training grounds. T-34/85 tank [REDACTED] was parked in the training area. Troops at training on 4 April included: about 40 men firing with submachine guns in the barracks yard; about 20 officers with tank insignia firing with pistols at the target range; and about 50 men firing machine guns. [REDACTED]

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9. Between 2 and 4 April, the Fliegerhorst Kaserne was about 100 percent lighted after nightfall. (P-6) However, no training activity or vehicular traffic was noticed there. (4)

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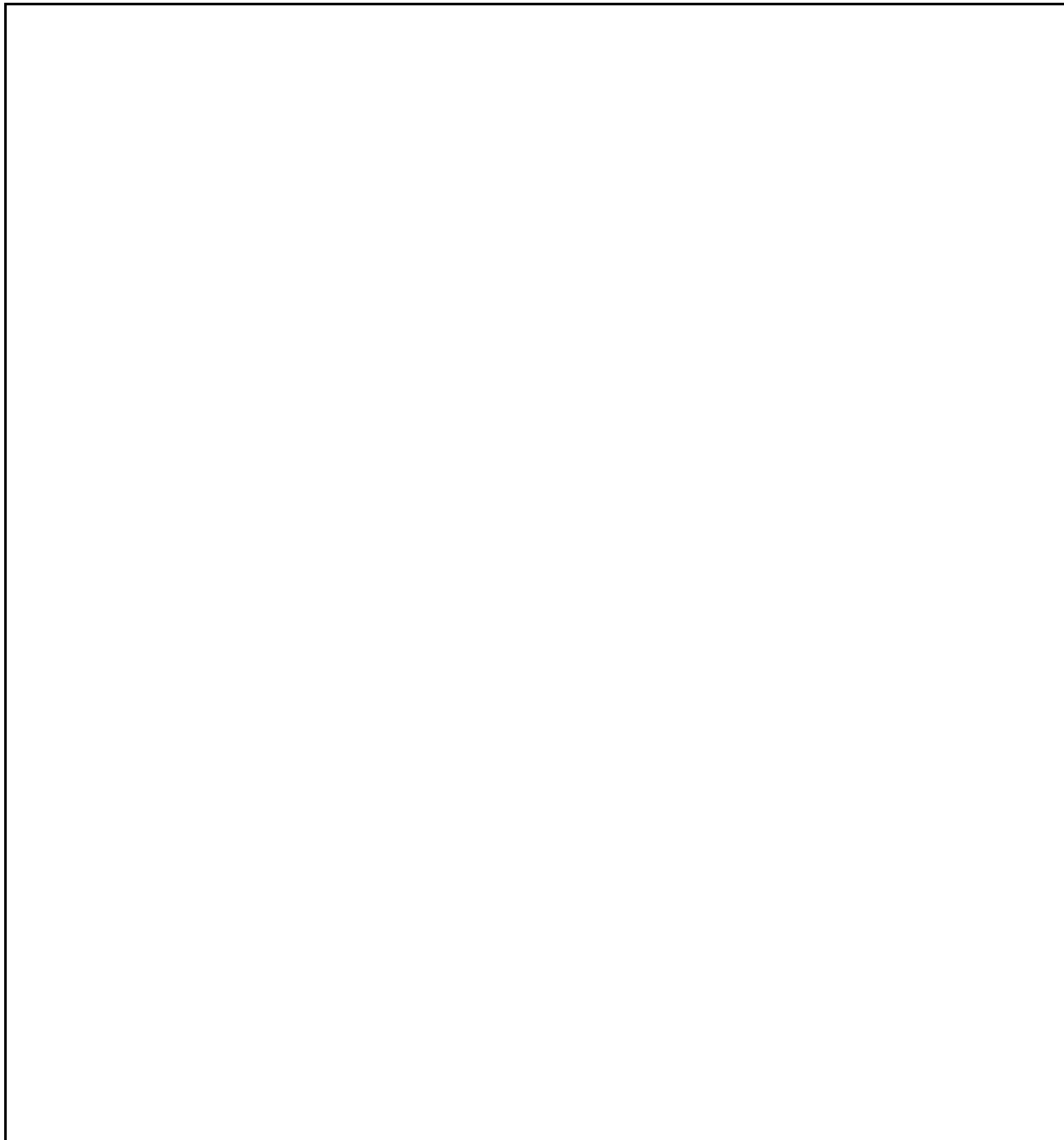
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Comments.

- (1) The movements toward Beeskow were confirmed by observations at the Lieberose troop training grounds according to which the arrival of the first components of the 7th Gds Wech Div from Fuerstenwalde and Frankfurt/Oder occurred on 6 April.
- (2) Components of the 7th Gds Wech Div which are fairly definitely believed to be stationed in the Pionier Kaserne, Fuerstenwalde, include the division headquarters, the 5th Gds Mtrcl Bn, the 122d (?) Gds Engr Bn, the 147th (?) Gds Sig Bn and the unidentified tank training battalion. These units total about 1,500 troops. Furthermore, the 24th and 26th Gds Wech Regts are believed to be quartered in Fuerstenwalde. The 24th Gds Wech Regt is probably stationed in the barracks installation on Braunsdorferstrasse.

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The quarters of the 26th Gds Vecz Regt are undetermined. It is possible that most of the regimental units, including the tank battalion and the artillery battalion, are quartered in the Pionier Kaserne and some of the units in the barracks installation on the road to Hauen. This would account for the strength estimate of 2,800 troops and the number of tanks and AT guns mentioned in paragraph 7.

- (3) There is the possibility that large advance parties had left for Lieberose on 4 April.

- (4) [redacted] reported the Fliererhorst Kaserne to have been almost vacant in March 1952. See [redacted]. Components of the unidentified AAA division of the Fourth Gds Vecz Army stationed there were loaded at the end of February 1952. No return shipments have as yet been observed.

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